

Washington Feed and Flour Mill
East Saddle River Road
Saddle River, Bergen County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Washington Feed and Flour Mill
East Saddle River Road
Saddle River, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Mr. J. S. Mabon

Date of Erection: 1770-1775 (?)

Architect:

Builder: Abraham Ackerman (?)

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Three

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone and
wood piles

Exterior walls - frame
construction, clapboards

Interior walls - plaster

Inside chimney

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

Locally this mill is called the Achenbach mill and is said to have been built by Henry Achenbach in 1845. However, Achenbach did not obtain possession of the land upon which the mill stands until 1857. In 1791 two years after Abraham Ackerman died his son Garret appeared before the court and requested that the estate be divided. In the report of the commissioners a grist mill is mentioned. We also know through Watkins' map that there was a mill on this site at the time of the Revolutionary War; Watkins was one of Erskine's assistants. Garret died in 1855 having made his will in 1854. In this will he mentions the mills and water privileges. The

house (NJ-156) and the mill were bought by Henry Achenbach and his wife Charity who was a daughter of Garret. Achenbach received title in 1857 from two of the sisters of his wife. It is possible that Achenbach enlarged the mill, but judging from the framing this could easily be the original mill. After Achenbach's death the property passed to his three children and their heirs sold to Charles C. Scott from whom the present owner purchased, although no deed of this purchase is on record.

The mill for a time was called the Washington Mill because he was supposed to have stopped at the house during the Revolution. Apparently the mill has had other names for on the east elevation is a dilapidated sign upon which can be discerned the words "Union Flour and Feed Mill". One of the interesting remains in the mill is the poor box into which went the contribution of flour for the needy of the neighborhood.

Bibliography:

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Supervising Historian

Approved:

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer